

**STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD
BOARD MEETING SESSION – EXECUTIVE OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 2, 2008**

ITEM 8

SUBJECT

CONSIDERATION OF A PROPOSED RESOLUTION SUPPORTING "NO DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN" CAMPAIGN TO REDUCE UNUSED PHARMACEUTICALS IN WASTEWATER THROUGH TAKE BACK AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS.

DISCUSSION

This campaign is in response to growing public concern about measurable amounts of pharmaceutical medications found in the waters of California.

The campaign is being undertaken as a joint effort with a number of California wastewater treatment plant operators and utilities in recognition of that public concern.

POLICY ISSUE

Support for the "No Drugs Down the Drain" Campaign is a step toward development of a policy on an issue just emerging. It provides a stepping off point for further discussion and research into the increasing amounts of pharmaceuticals found in our waters. The campaign also provides actual help for Californians trying to dispose of their unused and outdated medications through its establishment and encouragement of drug take-back programs, and through community outreach.

FISCAL IMPACT

The "No Drugs Down the Drain" Campaign will have a potentially positive, though as yet unknown fiscal impact by raising awareness and possibly reducing a practice that now threatens to require a new set of expensive testing and monitoring of California's waters.

At this point there should be no fiscal impact on the SWRCB.

REGIONAL BOARD IMPACT

None.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The State Water Board should adopt the proposed resolution.

D R A F T

STATE WATER RESOURCES CONTROL BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2008-

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR “NO DRUGS DOWN THE DRAIN” CAMPAIGN

WHEREAS:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board (State Water Board) develops, adopts and enforces water quality standards for the State of California;
2. The disposal of pharmaceutical medications down household drains has a potentially negative impact on California’s water quality, the health of its people and environment;
3. Testing for and filtration of pharmaceutical medications is rare throughout the water systems of the State of California;
4. Few disposal options for unused or outdated pharmaceutical medications are currently available to the citizens of California;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. The State Water Resources Control Board endorses and supports the goals of the “No Drugs Down the Drain” pharmaceutical medication disposal and education campaign.
2. The State Water Board will help establish and promote the goals of the “No Drugs Down the Drain Campaign”.
3. The State Water Board will work to increase knowledge of the impact of pharmaceutical medications on waters of the State of California, and to make available correct and proper disposal facilities for citizens of the State.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned Clerk to the Board does hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and correct copy of a resolution duly and regularly adopted at a meeting of the State Water Resources Control Board held on September 2, 2008.

Jeanine Townsend
Clerk to the Board